GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1962
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
CHANGING OF MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF UNIVERSITIES
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make changes in the management structure of the Universities for higher GDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by Gnanam Committee and Sonam Committee in the management of Universities;

(d) if so, the details of main recommendations; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a) to (e): The X Five Year Plan proposals for the higher education development, inter alia, focus upon various changes which are desirable in the management structure of the universities. According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Soneri Committee had accepted some of the recommendations of the Gnanam Committee in this regard. A brief of some of the important recommendations is enclosed as Annexure. These recommendations were conveyed to all the universities for necessary action.
Annexure

Recommendations of the Gnanam Committee which were accepted by the Soneri Committee inter alia include :

• In deciding the Management pattern of Universities, it should be recognized that the academic administration is very different from that in vogue in the governmental or in the Corporate system and it should be based on the principle of participation, decentralization, autonomy and accountability.

• The managerial patterns of a University System must necessarily have an inbuilt flexibility to adapt itself quickly to the changing needs of the country and the region it serves and to carry out innovations and experiments. Any effort, therefore, to bring the structures of all universities within the framework of a single pattern of university Act will prove to be an impediment in this process. Legislations therefore, should, while laying down the broad pattern of university management, leave the details to be framed by each university through Statutes and ordinances.

• Due to statutory and financial restrictions the present system of university administration is non-conductive to achieve the goals of excellence. The University System, therefore, calls for all-round restructuring to make the constituents of the system more autonomous.

• The Department of a University being its basic operational units, should be enable to function with freedom and wider academic, administrative and financial powers.

• The move initiated towards granting academic autonomy to colleges should be further accelerated and the objective of making all colleges autonomous should be realized within a specific time frame.

• Accountability should be maintained at all levels. Accountability of the teachers through the Heads of Departments/Dean/Directors should be the Vice-Chancellor and the various university bodies. The university through the Vice- Chancellor should be accountable to the society. Every one in the university community should realize that autonomy and academic freedom do not free them from being accountable.

• Research Scientists and Scholars (Science and humanities/social sciences) from the National Laboratories/Institutes be nominated on the bodies/authorities of the universities, particularly on the Academic Councils. Planning Boards, Faculties, Boards of Studies, and the Boards of Research and Extension.

• Computers have been used in the Universities since long for examination processing. However, they can also be effectively used in other administrative sectors of activities like finances, budget, staff rosters, pay-roles, library services and Estate Management.